FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 DECEMBER 1985

Jihad, Hizballah Claims on Plane Crash

An anonymous caller told a news agency in Beirut that the Islamic Jihad was responsible for the 12 December plane crash in Newfoundland in which 258 Americans died, AFP reported. The caller said an "explosion" was timed to take place as the plane landed in the United States but it happened in Canada because the plane was delayed during its stopover in the FRG. The Voice of Lebanon reported that a caller claiming to represent Hizballah telephoned France Inter to also claim responsibility for the plane crash.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio reported further air strikes 12-13 December, announcing that Iraqi planes raided Khark Island on three occasions, twice hit a "large maritime target" near the Iranian coast, and launched 171 attacks on Iranian troop concentrations. An Iranian communique cited by IRNA maintained, however, that Iranian planes and antiaircraft units thwarted all Iraqi air raids at the battlefronts 11-12 December.

An 11 December report on the war by the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* said France has supplied Iraq with large numbers of "devastating" new surface-to-air missiles for use against a major Iranian ground offensive, which "observers" believe will take place in the next 2 months.

Israel

Talks With Egypt — Both Israeli and Egyptian representatives to the Herzliyya talks indicated that "very serious progress" was made, IDF radio reported, adding that a document containing both sides' positions on arbitration of the Tabah dispute will now be submitted to the political leadership in Jerusalem and Cairo. The Israeli Cabinet will discuss the Tabah issue 18 December. *DAVAR noted, and close associates of Prime Minister Shim'on* Peres believe that he will be prepared to risk a government crisis over the arbitration issue. *DAVAR* also published the head of the Egyptian delegation's remark that other problems in bilateral relations, including the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv, will be solved if Israel agrees to arbitration.

Military Procurement in U.S. — Reacting to statements by U.S. customs officials concerning the illegal export of defense items to Israel, the Defense Ministry said it has not received notification from the United States about the latter's suspicions that the ministry made an improper procurement deal, Jerusalem radio reported. The ministry's spokesman stressed that its procurement deals in the United States are legal and authorized by U.S. authorities. The entire affair may be the result of a misunderstanding between different U.S. authorities, according to Israeli political circles cited by the radio.

Syria-Jordan

In the wake of the latest round of Jordanian-Syrian talks, Amman television announced that Jordan began supplying electricity to four major southern Syrian towns 12 December.

In another development, the Amman paper *SAWT AL-SHA'B* expressed support for Syrian military intervention to end the anarchy in Beirut, asserting that the deployment of Syrian forces may be the last resort.

Lebanon

The Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces will form a joint committee which will draft a plan to restructure the party and define its relationship with the Lebanese Forces, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed in a report on the party political bureau's 12 December meeting. If the political bureau approves the draft plan, the leadership of the party and the Lebanese Forces will work together in an emergency committee to supervise the reorganization of the party, promote reconciliation, resolve disputes, and coordinate political positions.

PLO Affairs, Egyptian Comment

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has postponed his visit to Jordan and is making preparations to transfer his headquarters to Khartoum, the Dubayy paper *AL-BAYAN* stated in a report from Amman. In another development, PLO official Muhammad Milhim told the London paper *AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that the PLO will "never" recognize Israel, according to Radio Monte Carlo. On the other hand, a Cairo radio commentary maintained that the PLO's recognition of Israel's right to exist is a "pure formality" because the PLO is "implicitly" recognizing Israel by seeking to attend an international peace conference. The radio viewed the U.S. conditions for PLO participation in the peace process as "timewasting and unrealistic."

Polisario Military Aims

Polisario intends to thwart Morocco's use of "defense cordons" in the Western Sahara by launching a "war of attrition" against the Moroccans, a Polisario official stated in an interview with Algiers radio following the conclusion of Polisario's Sixth Congress.

DRA

Nine rebel units made up of 585 men from Jamiyat-e Eslami recently took advantage of the official amnesty and surrendered to security forces in Faryab Province, Kabul radio announced.

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Karmal Addresses Message to UN on Human Rights
LD121428 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Message by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, to Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration — read by Sarwar Mangal, PDPA Central Committee member and deputy prime minister of the Revolutionary Council]

[Text] Your Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, general secretary of the United Nations:

I am pleased to present to you, on behalf of the people and Government of the DRA, and my own, sincere congratulations on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights.

The UN Declaration on Human Rights and other credible documents in this field that have been approved by the United Nations and its related organs have played an important role in the progress achieved to protect human rights and freedoms, especially regarding the eminent position for human rights at the national and international level. The United Nations has prepared a suitable ground for the realization of the high goals and objectives, approved in the UN Charter, regarding human rights.

During the 37 years that have passed since the approval of the declaration, the people of the world have witnessed the indefatigable [words indistinct] shown by the progressive forces toward the realization of the values expressed in the declaration and in other human rights documents.

As a result of the inhuman policy of imperialism and its allies, millions of people throughout the world have been deprived of their essential rights and freedoms. The Palestinian people and the Arab inhabitants of the occupied lands are suffering from the fascist policy of the Zionist regime of Israel. The racist regime of Pretoria, with its hated apartheid policy, has deprived the captive people of South Africa of their rights and freedoms, with the direct help of her imperialist supporters, as well as kept Namibia under her colonialist control.

Imperialism continues to carry out an adventurist and belligerent policy, a policy of intensifying the arm races, in particular nuclear weapons, and expanding it to outer space. As a result, the very basic right of mankind, the right to live, has been placed in jeopardy.

The unjust international economic order has resulted in the plundering of the resources and assets of the underdeveloped countries, and damaged progress toward achieving rights for poor countries, rights concerning health, social welfare, education and training.

The DRA, as a loyal member of the United Nations and a country that believes in the lofty goals of that organization, attaches great importance to the UN Declaration on Human Rights and to other credible documents on this matter.

The DRA has joined in signing the majority of the credible documents in the field of human rights and has prepared the ground for practical utilization of the envisaged rights embodied in these documents by the people of Afghanistan; and has taken into consideration the provisions of these documents during the draft of the country's laws.

In brief, respect for democracy, national independence, humanity, progress and social justice, respect for religion, faith, family, ownership, and human rights are the fundamental principles of our national and democratic revolution. In order to attain these objectives, fundamental steps have been taken that include: the broadening of the composition of the leadership organs of the state by including the credible representatives of the people, representatives who can reflect the interests of the strata as well as of the various groups of our society and nationalities residing in our homeland; carrying out principled and possible cases of leniency, with the necessary flexibility, in accordance with the interests of the country for national accord, peace, and nationwide security of the homeland.

If the reactionary and imperialist foreign intervention; if the armed struggle; if the export of the terrorist bands from the neighboring countries into Afghanistan, comprising those who embark on murder and assassination in the most savage manner and disrupt peaceful life and violate human rights in the country — if all of this had not been imposed on our people, our gains would have been greater in protecting, developing, and securing human rights than what we have already mentioned.

Despite all the positive and effective measures that have been taken, or are in the process of being taken, in the DRA toward achieving progress in safeguarding human rights, the satanic forces of imperialism and reaction in the world, by embarking on fabrication and lies, are trying to make use of the credible UN organization and its respective organs as a means for their inhumane policies against the DRA.

I am hopeful that the realistic attitude of the United Nations can prevent the realization of these evil plans.

Esteemed Excellency, once again I express the support of Afghanistan for the humanitarian and positive measures of the UN for observing human rights throughout the world.

With due respect,

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council

Keshtmand, Najibollah Meet With USSR Delegation
LD121955 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and DRA Council of Ministers chairman, met the high-ranking USSR judicial delegation headed by Yevgeniy Alekseyevich Smolentsev, USSR Supreme Court deputy chairman at the Council of Ministers Headquarters this afternoon.

At this meeting, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand spoke on the principle of revolutionary legality in the country and the positive transformations that have taken place in the country's socioeconomic and political life as a result of the April Revolution in general and in its new development stage in particular, and expressed the wish for a further broadening of friendly cooperation between the two countries' peoples and governments.

They also spoke on a series of subjects of mutual interest and friendly cooperation between the governments and peoples of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

According to another report, Najibollah, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, met the high-ranking USSR judicial delegation, headed by Yevgeniy Alekseyevich Smolentsev, USSR Supreme Court deputy chairman, at Central Committee Headquarters yesterday afternoon.

Najibollah spoke at this meeting on the extended observation of democratic legality within the DRA, the deepening and broadening of the gains of the April Revolution, the PDPA and DRA Government policy regarding the broadening of the social pillars of the people's revolutionary sovereignty, and the growing process of the people's broad support for this policy. He wished for an even further deepening of fraternal Afghan-Soviet relations.

Pakistani Army, Khyber Tribesmen Reportedly at 'War'

LD130830 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Kabul, December 12, BAKHTAR — The aggressive army of Pakistan raided on the Gan Ab region of Sepay Afridi tribes [as received]. As soon as the soldiers of the military regime reached to the area, the valorous tribesmen began attacking on soldiers and forced them to retreat, reports reaching here say.

War between the forces of the military regime of Pakistan and the free tribal people is going on.

In pursuance of inhuman acts, the soldiers of the aggressive military regime planted anti-personnel mines in Shalgie [spelling as received] bridge of Khyber region, but when the occupationist forces crossed the bridge, the mines exploded and caused the death of some soldiers and the destruction of some of their weapons.

Since interventions of the Pakistani forces in Khyber region, all the transport routes of the Afridi tribes are blocked and the tribesmen are faced with the shortage of foodstuffs.

The reports add that the savage raid of the Punjabi army on Khyber Agency brought about the solidarity of all the peace-loving people of Pakistan with the valorous Khyber tribesmen. The various political parties of Pakistan including the Pakistan People's Party, the National Democratic Party, by holding grand meetings in the cities of Islamabad, Lahore and [words indistinct], expressed the opposition to the military intervention of Pakistan in Khyber region and warned the military regime to put an end to their impudent intervention.

3 More Sentenced to Death for Assassination

LD121045 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Text] The Judicial Panel of the Special Revolutionary Court in its recent open session sentenced to death three of the ringleaders and organizers of the Jamiyat terrorist band on charges of assassination and transfer of weapons and lethal chemical explosive substances.

A BIA correspondent reports that the three — Judge Abdol Wahid son of Ebrahim, Abdol Mahinan son of Abdorrahman, and Janan son of Abdol Ghafar — confessed to their shameful and dirty crimes in an open court today. Explosive substances, a lethal chemical called cyanide, three pistols with silencers, and a number of documents proving their links with the terrorist band were seized from the three members of the terrorist crush group of the Jamiyat band, who had assassinated Abdorrashid Mo'alem in Kabul City. The judicial panel, after hearing the prosecutor's case and the defense of the accused, assessed the crimes of as a felony committed against the homeland, people, and revolution, in accordance with Article 30 of the DRA Basis Principles and Other Provisions of Criminal Procedure Law, and sentenced the accused as follows:

Abdul Wahid son of Muhamamd Ebrahim and Abdul Mahinan son of Abdorrahman were sentenced to the maximum punishment, that is to say death, in accordance with the explicit term of Article 175 of the Penal Law. Janan son of Abdul Ghafr also sentenced to death in accordance with the explicit term of Paragraphs 1,5, and 6 of Article 8 of the Penal Law on Crimes Against the War Preparedness of the Armed Forces. The court's decision will be applied to the convicts after approval by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium.

9 Armed Rebel Groups Move to Government Side

LD121852 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] On the basis of the amnesty decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council and the realization that opposing the invincible revolutionary sovereignty is useless, recently nine armed groups, who had belonged to the Jamiyat-e Eslami band, after repenting their past deeds, have come over to the side of our revolutionary government. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent, quoting a spokesman of the country's security forces, reports that these groups consisting of 585 men, led by Abdorrasul Pahlawan and Jowra Pahlawan, came over to the security forces in the environs of Sherin Tagab and Dowlat Abad districts, Faryab Province, and expressed their solidarity with the PDPA and the DRA Government and promised to dedicate themselves to the aspirations of the revolution. They have brought their weapons with them.

These groups possessed 1 DShK, 6 rocket launchers, 14 machineguns, 113 Kalashnikovs, 452 various infantry weapons, 6 anti-tank mines, 350 shells of artillery, 6,000 rounds of infantry ammunition, and 600 hand grenades.

House Told of Measures To Prevent Espionage

BK120854 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The prime minister has said government has gathered significant information from those arrested recently for espionage activities. Intervening during the question hour, Mr Rajiv Gandhi assured the Rajya Sabha today steps to prevent such elements from operating in the country are being strengthened further. Strict measures have been taken to prevent spying and espionage activites.

Replying to the main question, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Narayanan, said government has no information of any U.S.-Pakistan collusion in defense espionage activities in India. However, India has voiced its apprehensions about American intelligence being used by Pakistan.

1982-84 Arrests Cited

BK121329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The prime minister has said that the government has gathered significant information from those arrested recently for espionage activities. Intervening during question hour in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said steps to prevent such elements from operating in the country are being strengthened further.

The minister of state for internal security, Mr Arun Nehru, informed the House in a written reply to another question that 365 persons were arrested on the charge of espionage in four states and in Delhi between 1982-84. There were 200 arrests in Punjab, 128 in Jammu and Kashmir, 29 in Rajasthan, 7 in Delhi, and 1 in Madhya Pradesh.

Minister on Espionage Acts

HK121230 Hong Kong AFP in English 1045 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 12 (AFP) — The government has unearthed some "significant" information from investigating 18 suspects in India's biggest ever spy scandal, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said today. Mr Gandhi broached the spy scandal during question time in parliament, but gave no further details.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, K.R. Narayanan was asked whether the government had any information of collusion between the United States and Pakistan in spying activities in India and whether Mr Gandhi had raised the matter with President Ronald Reagan during his recent visit to the United States.

Mr Narayanan said New Delhi had no such information of a joint U.S.-Pakistan operation but added that it had voiced its apprehensions about Pakistan using U.S. intelligence.

Mr Gandhi intervened to say that his government had unearthed some "significant" information from suspects in the spying scandal. He added that the government had taken strict steps against spying activities in India.

A total of 18 suspects — 14 government officials and four businessmen, all of them Indian — were arrested early this year on charges of spying for various East and West European countries. The case is pending before a local court.

Minister Confirms Production of Rocket Fuel

BK121615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The minister of state for science and technology, Mr Shiv Raj Patil, confirmed in the Rajya Sabha today that a vital chemical — the rocket fuel — has been produced in India for the first time. In fact, he added, most of these chemicals are now being produced in the country.

Mr Patil said at question time that these chemicals have been primarily developed by the Department of Space. The technology has been passed on Indian industries for large-scale production.

Zimbabwe Foreign Minister Departs 12 Dec

BK130510 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] The foreign minister of Zimbabwe, Dr Witness Mangwende, left New Delhi yesterday after a 4-day visit to India. He was seen off at the airport, among others, by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Narayanan.

Tripura Strike Protests Killings by Extremists

BK121611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Life in Tripura today came to a standstill following the 12-hour statewide bundh [strike] called by the CPI-M-led ruling left front. The bundh was called to protest against the killings by extremists on Monday at Kalyanpur in West District. Government offices and educational institutions remained closed, and state transport buses did not ply.

Spokesman Explains Operation in Tribal Areas
BK121556 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] An official spokesman stated in Peshawar today that an operation in the Khyber Agency has been launched following a constant demand of the tribal chiefs and after the failure of conciliatory efforts, to force the antinational and antisocial elements to give up their activities, in accordance with tribal traditions and customs. He said the tribal people have fully supported the government's action against a handful of miscreants who have disrupted peace and tranquillity in the Khyber Agency.

He said these miscreants and their leaders indulge in activities like producing heroin, drug trafficking, smuggling, kidnapping, car theft, and other antinational activities and were also distributing arms received from the Karmal administration. The spokesman said several miscreants have already laid down their arms and surrendered their Kalanishkov rifles to the authorities. They have also deposited a large quantity of arms received from Afghanistan with the tribal chiefs. The spokesman said the blockade of the Khyber Agency has been relaxed and will soon be totally lifted as the situation is fast returning to normal.

A group of journalists visited the Khyber Agency and was shown dismantled houses, narcotics,and gambling spots, and caverns where stolen goods and kidnapped people were kept. Talking to the journalists, two tribal chiefs — Haji Nazir Beg and Qazi Burhanuddin — thanked the government for acting to curb the activities of the antisocial elements.

DAWN on Growing Trade With Afghanistan
GF111348 Karachi DAWN (Weekly Economic and Business Review Supplement) in English 7-13 Dec 85, p 3

[Report by Tufail Ahmad Khan]

[Text] The level and trend of trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan would surprise many observers. Despite the situation within Afghanistan and on Pak-Afghan border, commercial exchanges between the two countries have generally been increasing according to official statistics.

Through yearly increase, the value of Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan had risen from Rs. (rupees) 95.2 million in 1975-76 to Rs. 217.1 million in 1978-79. Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan rose to Rs. 219.6 million in 1979-80. There were declines in 1980-81 and 1981-82 but exports began to rise again in 1982-83 and reached the level of Rs. 212.9 million in that year and further to Rs. 219.9 million in 1983-84.

The highest ever level was reached in 1984-85 when Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan climbed to Rs. 270.3 million. The increase was not only in value rupees terms. The quantum of exports also increased.

Imports of Afghan goods into Pakistan also show a similar trend. The total value of imports of Afghan goods reached Rs. 457.2 million in 1978-79 from Rs. 244.3 million in 1975-76. Imports dipped slightly to Rs. 431.2 million in 1979-80 but rose to Rs. 629.1 million in 1980-81, and further to Rs. 714.5 million in 1981-82, the peak of Pakistan's imports from Afghanistan.

Even during 1983-84 and 1984-85 when imports were respectively at Rs. 335.9 million and Rs. 301.6 million in the level remained far above the normal year of 1975-76. [sentence as published]

For 1985-86, figures available for the quarter up to September show a declining trend in Pak-Afghan trade. Exports were to the tune of Rs. 42.559 million during July-September 1985-86 compared to Rs. 59.917 in July-September 1984-85.

Imports also declined from Rs. 78.407 million in July-September 1984-85 to Rs. 56.512 million in the corresponding period during the current financial year 1985-86.

Pakistan has always had an adverse balance of trade with Afghanistan, although the number of items exported to Afghanistan has always been larger compared to the number of items imported. During the period July 1983 to June 1985, items of yearly export and import numbered 212 and 155 respectively.

Let us take Pakistan's export items first. Bananas increased from 3.213 million kg in 1983-84 to 4.575 million kg in 1984-85. Similarly the export of kino (a citrus fruit) went up from 3.240 million kg in 1983-84 to 4.024 million kg during 1984-85 and water-melon from 375,175 kg to as much as 1.318 million kg. Among prepared foods, sugar confectionary and chocolate exports also registered substantial increases in 1984-85 compared to 1983-84.

Pakistan's biggest export to Afghanistan consists of cigarettes. Nearly 90 percent of all cigarette exports of Pakistan go to Afghanistan. In 1984-85 this export rose to 1,575,413,000 (1.57 bn), in number compared to 1,365,339,000 (1.36 bn) in 1983-84.

Some new items which did not feature at all in Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan during 1983-84 featured prominently in 1984-85. These were cotton cloth bleached mill-made (5,770 sqr. metres), synthetic organic dye-stuffs (107,899 kg) boots and shoes, etc.

Among manufactured items, impressive quantitive increases took place during 1984-85 over 1983-84 in organic surface active agents, shoe polishes, filing and packing containers, buffalo calf leather finished, sewing thread of cotton (from 164,989 kg in 1983-84 to 238, kg in 1984-85), glass sheet worked, domestic articles of aluminium, iron and steel articles, parts of cement plants, apparel cloth, accessory-rubber.

From Afghanistan, the import of mash pulses (dry, whole) almost doubled in quantity during 1984-85 compared to 1983-84. The other main items which Pakistan imported in larger quantities in 1984-85 compared to the preceding year were vegetables leguminous dried, fresh grapes, fresh apricots, pomegranates, musk melon, coriander seed, sheep skins without wool, sulphur, scrap other than iron and steel, aluminium scrap, medicinal and cosmetic ingredients such as mulhati, rose flower and perfume plants, seed grass, dextrins, parts and accessory of motor vehicles, X-ray film, flat unexposed and carpets of wool hand-knotted.

Many items which did not feature in Pakistan's import list for 1983-84 were imported from Afghanistan during 1984-85 such as bidi leaves, olive oil, zinc chloride, dyes coaltar, soap in powder of flakes, leather of cow calf crust, leather calf tanned, leather cow hides crust, art paper uncoated copper wire netting etc., apparatuses and implements and parts such as scales, tapes, alarm clocks, books, handicraft products, and several other smaller items.

Smuggling

Afghanistan is still a conduit for the smuggling of a large variety of consumer goods manufactured in developed industrial countries at the cost of Pakistan's industry.

Among all Asian and African countries (90 in number) Afghanistan is the 15th largest buyer of Pakistan goods and the 20th largest supplier of Paksitan. It is interesting to note that India exported (Rs. 261.346 million) less compared to what Afghanistan exported (Rs. 301.682 million) to Pakistan.

Such has been the level of Pak-Afghan trade despite turmoils, border troubles, mass migration etc. This only means that Pakistan and Afghanistan are each other's natural market.

The entire trade between the two countries is land borne. In the past some light-weight items used to be carried by air. Pakistan's land-route trade with USSR and many other countries of Europe and Asia, also used to pass mostly through Afghanistan.

After the problem relating to Afghanistan has been settled and the immigrants have returned home, commerical ties between the two countries could become even stronger than what they are at present.

Domestic Defense Technology Development Needed

GF121548 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Dec 85 p 6

[Editoria: "Defense Manufacture"]

[Text] Speaking at an international seminar organised by the Pakistan Ordinance Factories (POF) at Wah, Pakistan Atomic Emergy Chairman Mr Munir Ahmed Khan has emphasised that it is not enough to import advanced defence technology but to relate it to a domestic base capable of using, developing and assimilating it. Taking stock of the small and medium arms capability of the POF, he stated that the factory should try and move towards more sophisticated defence technologies available abroad. In this context he referred to laser technology which now lay at the heart of modern defence systems. Connecting the question of required levels of investment with the possibility of cooperation within the Islamic world, he expressed his dismay at past ventures that never got off the ground. As a result, the Middle Eastern countries have spent 200 billion dollars on the purchase of weapons in the past ten years without either learning about weapons' technology or changing the balance of power in favour of the Arabs.

The question of defence technology comes within the orbit of general technology. Unless a country has a technological base it cannot hope to indigenise the products it has to import by spending colossal sums in scarce foreign exchange. The misfortune of the Third World is that given a choice between the problem of food scarcity and the problem of national defence, it has always ended up spending more money acquired through foreign aid on arms than on food. The reason behind this disproportion is the absence of a technological base and an inability to adapt and assimilate technology from the products imported. The point to ponder is that Japan and South Asia acquired the same level of foreign technology at the same point of time earlier this century. While South Asia remained passively attached to imports, Japan transformed itself into a major adapter and assimilater of technologies invented elsewhere. In the North-South debate the issue of transfer of technology has been discussed by the South as an abstraction which could be passed on. The truth of the matter is that technology is always available in the shape of a machinery which one has to buy first then undertake to learn and assimilate into a local base. Pakistan has made even slower progress in this field than India; but it is heartening to note that POF has now 300 units in the private sector making parts for its main products. This is a beginning that is auspicious and this is a road which should be seriously travelled because at the end of it is the sort of technological autonomy that will protect our political autonomy in world affairs.

SRI LANKA

Ziaul Haq Opens Hospital; Donates Money

BK121105 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The Zia Hospital at Akurana, built at a cost of 5 million rupees, was declared open this morning by Pakistani President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who also made a personal contribution of 1 million Pakistani rupees for the future development of the hospital. Speaking on the occasion, General Zia recalled with gratitude the helping hand extended by Sri Lanka at a time when Pakistan was facing difficulties. He said that his present visit was in gratitude for the cooperation extended by Sri Lanka toward the reawakening of Pakistan and the recent tour of his country by President J.R. Jayewardene.

Sri Lanka's donation of 7,000 eyes for the blind in Pakistan also came in for high praise by the visiting Paksitani leader. General Zia appreciated the warm welcome accorded him by the people of Sri Lanka.

The Pakistani Government also donated another million rupee for the improvement of Sri Lanka-Pakistan cultural and language ties.

Replying to the Pakistani president's speech, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed made it clear that Pakistan was witnessing a new awakening under the able leadership of General Ziaul Haq.

Mr Hameed also said that the present visit by the Pakistani leader had further consolidated the existing ties between Sri Lanka and Pakistan. He said there had been no difference between the Sinhalese and Muslims in the Akurana electorate for the past 25 years and they were now living in peace and harmony.

Zia Hosted at Banquet

BK130416 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said Pakistan and Sri Lanka are facing similar problems in nation-building and they can use each other's experience for the mutual benefit of their people. Speaking at a dinner hosted in his honor by the Sri Lankan Muslims in Colombo last night, he said contacts between the two countries are expanding and their relations of friendship and cooperation will be further strengthened. The president also said that the objectives and ambitions of both countries are identical, as are their views on regional issues.

The president said he is happy to see that the Sri Lankan Muslims have been playing a positive role in economic, social, commercial and professional fields and their behavior is extremely good. He exhorted the Sri Lankan Muslims to adhere to Islamic principles strictly and to become loyal citizens of their country.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed said the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SARC] summit, in which the presidents of Pakistan and Sri Lanka played a vital role, can play a significant part in bettering the future of our people and countries. Paying glowing tribute to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, he said: We view him as a world Muslim leader, and we are highly impressed by the pace of progress made by Pakistan under his leadership.

The president of the All-Ceylon Muslim League also spoke on the occasion. He said the people of Pakistan reciprocated the friendship not only of the Sri Lankan Muslims, but of all Sri Lankan citizens as well. He expressed the hope that with the formation of SARC, the South Asian leaders will be able to make more and more efforts to improve the regional situation as well as the welfare of their respective people.

Radio Pakistan's special representative, Nissar Sheikh, reports that President Ziaul Haq will visit the new parliament complex in the (Koti) urban council near Colombo today. He will also attend two more receptions in addition to the one hosted by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Premadasa. The president will host a return banquet tonight.

Athulathmudali on 'Final Offensive' Allegation

HK130725 Hong Kong AFP in English 0705 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Colombo, Dec 13 (AFP) – National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali today dismissed as nonsense allegations that the Sri Lankan Government was preparing a "final offensive" against militant Tamil separatists.

Mr. Athulathmudali dismissed as "nonsense" a statement issued by the Eelam People Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) that the government was preparing to use napalm bombs and Malaysian mercenary pilots and was pouring troops and armaments into the Northern Province ready for a final offensive.

"This is the wild imagination of the EPRLF," Mr. Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today. "This is another attempt by the terrorists to mislead world opinion."

The EPRLF, a major Tamil militant group based in southern India, had also charged in a statement reported by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) that fighter planes armed with napalm bombs had been flown to Jaffna, the northern capital and centre of Tamil separatist activity. Mr. Athulathmudali said that it was the militants who were concentrating their fighters in the north, after they had suffered heavy casualties in the east.

"They got a bad hammering in the Eastern Province. So they are withdrawing to the north and regrouping there," he said.

The minister admitted that there was a concentration of government troops in Jaffna earlier this month, but reaffirmed that this was because of a turn around of soldiers after several months of duty. A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority have been waging a frequently bloody campaign for greater autonomy in the north and east.

Farther south in the Northern Province, troops attacked a militant separatist hideout at Nedunkerni yesterday, capturing 12 people and recovering weapons and ammunition, high-ranking security sources said today. In a separate incident on the Jaffna Peninsula yesterday, two people believed to be civilians were killed when they were caught in crossfire between soldiers and Tamil militants, security sources reported.

Meanwhile, officials confirmed that three members of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) were shot dead Wednesday by members of another militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in a dispute over a hijacked vehicle.

Bomb Explodes on Train 12 Dec; No Injuries

BK121319 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] A bomb exploded in the intercity express from Jaffna this afternoon, and it arrived at the railway yard at Maradana after dropping its passengers for the Colombo Fort railway station. The commissioner of police, A.S. Tillakaratne, told LANKA PUWATH that the explosion occurred at 1400 [0830 GMT].

He said the bomb did not appear to be very powerful.

It damaged the undercarriage of the fourth compartment behind the train engine.

The city police commissioner said the intercity express from Jaffna had dropped its passengers for Colombo Fort railway where its journey terminated.

It had just arrived at the railway yard of Maradana, about 2 kilometers away, when the bomb exploded.

No one was injured and no arrests have yet been made.

The government analyst was called in, and investigations had commenced.

Prime Minister Musavi Receives Japanese Envoy

LD121113 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 11 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 11 IRNA — Japan's ambassador to Tehran Yutaka Nomura met and conferred here Wednesday with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on relations between the two countries.

Nomura submitted a friendly message from premier Yasuhiro Nakasone, to Musavi and also pointed out the positive effects the Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip has had on expanding bilateral relations over the past year.

Musavi thanked his Japanese counterpart for the message and said that Iran too sought the expansion of mutual ties between the two countries.

The latest developments of the Iraqi imposed war as well as revised positions of the Persian Gulf countries towards the conflict, were discussed in the meeting.

Meets Nicaraguan Official

LD121223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] This morning Mr Manuel Espinoza, Nicaraguan minister of information and press, who is leading a delegation on a visit to Tehran, met with Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister. During the meeting, also attended by Mr Mohammad Hashemi, managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua's minister of information and press informed the prime minister of the latest developments in the propaganda, military, and economic assault on his country. The Nicaraguan minister conveyed a message to our country's prime minister from the president of the Republic and members of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua that expressed thanks for the Islamic Republic of Iran's assistance to his country. The Nicaraguan minister said: At a time when Central America sorely needs peace, the dispatch of U.S. arms to those countries allied with the United States in the region is increasing; the more Central America strives toward creating security in the region, the more the United States is active toward exacerbating tension in Central America.

In conclusion, Nicaragua's minister of information and press said closer relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are essential for strengthening his country's defensive front vis-a-vis U.S. encroachments.

Mr Musavi, prime minister, while welcoming the expansion of cultural and economic ties, referred to the common ground between the two countries' in confronting U.S. onslaughts and enumerated the phases of the growth and victories scored by the Islamic Revolution against U.S. machinations and those of its agents. Musavi also said: Escalating wars in various parts of the world is a hallmark of U.S. policy, and what is essential for the independence of the revolutionary countries is to fight with stubborn resistance against this warmongering.

Mr Musavi added: Today various fronts for waging struggle against the United States have been formed throughout the world. The coordination of their efforts could prove effective in reducing U.S. warmongering. In a world where the nations are becoming better informed, the countries subjected to these onslaughts should not feel alone since the informed masses of the peoples are with them, and you too are no exception to this rule.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, because of its friendship with your country, is seriously following the developments in Nicaragua and you, too, should endeavor to know our revolution and its values better!

Referring to the vast propaganda campaign against the Islamic Revolution, the prime minister noted the importance of the Voice and Vision in neutralizing these plots.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Musavi on Departures to Fronts

LD121924 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] This afternoon, 7,000 Karbala wayfarers gathered in front of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. In this gathering, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council; Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi; Zanjan Province deputies and several other Islamic Majlis deputies also were present. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a speech, while expressing gratitude and praise to the people of Zanjan who live in the Central Province, Zanjan Province's Karbala wayfarers, the Friday imams, and other personalities who have been marching with these wayfarers, said: It is fair to say that the people throughout our country have proudly responded to the state authorities' call to reinforce the front; they once again safeguarded Islam's honor and the revolution's prestige, as is worthy of this people. This is particularly true in the case of this glorious caravan of Karbala wayfarers from Zanjan Province, where the sons of Islam so sincerely departed for Karbala and registered an eternal honor for Zanjan Province. You have added a golden page to Zanjan's history, which will remain as a source of this people and that region's pride forever.

The imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council added: The important point for us today is our people's vigilance and our youth's alert conscience in contemporary history, which has become like a thorn in the eyes of global arrogance and Islam's enemies. The more they resort to propaganda and attempt to weaken us behind our battlelines, a single move of the people and their rush towards the revolution's aspirations when the need arises, foils all their propaganda and once again presents a bright picture of the revolution, which has become increasingly unbearable to our enemies. Such enthusiasm once again raises the morale of all of the country's responsible authorities.

The battlefronts, because of the particular international circumstances that we are aware of, today require our young men more than ever before; our youth understand this need and have responded positively. This cannot be compared with any similar occasion in any part of the world. Where would you see so many popular volunteers so enthusiastically departing to reinforce the battlefronts so that our officials and military commanders are fortified with manpower? Your enemy, that is Iraq and Saddam, has stretched his begging hand toward all reactionaries and

agents of colonialism to obtain manpower. He pays huge sums to hire mercenaries from Egypt, Jordan, and the entire Arab world, wherever he can find someone. He has not been able to dismiss and release his conscripted soldiers in the past 7 years. It is you, who with the love of martyrdom and jihad, so eagerly and voluntarily fill the fronts and battlefields that have ensured that our task of conscription has remained just as peace time, there has been no need to call up reserves.

This basic difference between the Islamic Republic and our enemy's country has clarified the issue to our enemy that the eventual victory will be yours; and, God willing, our nation, through its new movement and sacred uprising will once again now create epic deeds on the battlefronts. Our commanders must be prepared to finish the war victoriously. God willing, as we are here today to send you off, so we soon will come to your victorious welcome and will witness your success in the war.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi then spoke. In a speech referring to the Islamic Revolution's special features, and comparing it to other revolutions in the world, spoke of the Islamic fighters' motivation who rush to the fronts, and said: Your motivation to go to the fronts is not for the sake of conquest, for gaining territory, for domination, for oppression or tyranny. Rather, your motivation is to obey the command of the Koran, Islam, the imam, and Islamic ideology. That is the difference between our revolution and other revolutions and social changes. It is natural that when witnessing this motivation, we become aware of the difference in the quality of our Islamic Revolution compared to other revolutions and social changes in other countries and societies. You brave children of Zanjan and all our people are cognizant that our nation is all alone today in confronting world blasphemy and all types of conspiracy. We are surrounded by a great ocean of satanic forces. Nevertheless, we were and are able to persevere and prove that it is possible to confront them and to emerge victorious. The reason for this is the divine motivation behind our people's movement and all their deeds.

Continuing his speech, the prime minister said: Despite all the military and economic assistance and all international propaganda that Saddam has received, the fighters of Islam have nullified all world equations that would make a victory by him possible. Today, to assist Saddam and America's reactionary agents in the region, there is talk in the United Nations of a violation of human rights in our country. They cannot see the presence of wakeful and believing people in the streets, fronts, factories or villages; or to show it to the world even if they can see it. Human beings to them are only those dependent upon America; and their human rights are, in fact, support for American interests in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. It is natural that they cannot see you. This is why they extend their conspiracies to such lengths. They do their best to distort this revolution's features in the eyes of the world's peoples.

The prime minister added: When a nation gives up its fear of death and walks on the path of God, and shows that it is steadfast on this path and will give up everything it possesses, it most certainly will achieve victory.

In conclusion, Musavi said: Ever since the day our nation turned toward Islam and the Koran, when it made the foundations of Islam so firm in this country, when it became the standard-bearer of a world Islamic Revolution movement among all Islamic nations, and set ablaze this holy fire, it has shown that it is prepared to give up everything, including its life, children, comfort and well being, on this path. This movement and this self-sacrifice is a victory in itself. This is why we have experienced victory ever since the start of the revolution and at every moment. This movement will eventually lead to Islam's victory over the East and the West and the agents of world blasphemy.

Velayati Visit to Saudi Arabia, UAE Reviewed

GF121134 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Dec 85

[From "A Pause With the Events" program]

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has concluded a 3-day visit to Saudi Arabia. He returned to Tehran after holding a series of talks with senior Saudi officials on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

During the first round of talks, Dr Velayati exchanged views with his Saudi counterpart, Sa'ud al-Faysal, on bilateral relations. Referring to his visit to Tehran, the Saudi foreign minister said: During this visit we discussed bilateral relations and developments in the region. We hope that the current visit and the talks which will be held during it will lead to a great change in the region.

During this meeting, Dr Velayati said: Relations with the countries of the region are of special importance to us due to common religious and historical roots. The holy lands and the two holy mosques are further proof that adds special significance to these relations. Referring to the importance of the Middle East, particularly the Persian Gulf, Dr Velayati said that Iran has shown both in words and deeds that it attaches special importance to the security of the region. Hence, adequate attention must be paid to the factors that help to maintain the security and stability of the region, and the elements that cause tension must be confronted.

On the Palestinian cause and the struggle against the Zionist entity, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran lauded the sacrifices of the Lebanese Muslims in their confrontation of the Zionists. He said that the common enemy of the Islamic countries can only be defeated through reliance in strength of faith and Islamic ideology.

During his meetings with the Saudi officials, Dr Velayati tackled the war which Iraq has imposed on Iran. He said that Saddam's regime, by launching its aggression on the Islamic Republic of Iran at the outset of the victory of Islamic Revolution, aimed at striking at this revolution. He added that the Iranian Muslim people rose to confront this aggression with the assistance of God, thus bringing the Iraqi regime to the condition which we see today.

During the second phase of his talks in Riyadh, Dr Velayati met with Saudi King Fahd and held talks with him on issues of the Islamic world and on bilateral relations.

Referring to the importance of Iran among the Islamic countries, King Fahd said: We respect the Iranian people and the officials of the Islamic Republic because Iran has a special significance in the Islamic world. King Fahd stressed the importance of the unity of the Isalmic world. He said that Iran and Saudi Arabia can play an important role to enhance the Islamic world. Hence, we need Islamic understanding.

During his meetings with Saudi Government officials in Riyadh, Dr Velayati stressed that establishing friendly relations with Third World countries, especially the Islamic countries, has priority in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Leaving Riyadh, Dr Velayati made a brief stop in Abu Dhabi during which he held talks with Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs. He then returned to Tehran.

Khatami Receives Lebanese Hizballah Delegation

LD121432 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec 12, IRNA — The visiting Lebanese hizballah-Amal delegation met Iran's minister of Ershade Islami (Islamic guidance), Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami here Thursday. Issues relevant to the political developments of Lebanon and Muslims unity were among topics discussed at the meeting.

Khatami Departs for Syria; Interviewed on Goals

LD131122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Minister of Islamic Guidance Khatami, leading a delegation, left for Syria this morning. Before his departure from Tehran he gave an interview to a Central News Unit correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Khatami, would you please tell us about the purpose of your trip to Syria as well as your meetings there with Syrian officials?

[Khatami] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. It goes without saying that we have strong ties with Syria, a government at the forefront of struggle against Zionism. This visit is taking place with the aim of further strengthening those ties, particularly in connection with the extension of cultural relations. Of particular importance is the fact that a cultural agreement between the two countries, which has already been discussed and approved by the Majlis, was recently signed by the two countries' presidents. Needless to say, we already have certain cultural ties; however, with the (?signing) of this agreement, a clearer horizon will open to cultural ties at all levels. We hope that this trip may help to give direction to activities and programs within this context, which would benefit both countries. Obviously, we shall have various meetings with officials of that fraternal country. [Passage indistinct] [end recording]

Tehran: Besharati Meets with Zimbabwe's Mugabe

LD122205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] According a Central News Unit report, Mr Besharati, the deputy foreign affairs minister, who is visiting Africa at the head of a delegation, yesterday met with Mr Robert Mugabe, prime minister of Zimbabwe, and submitted a written message from Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Islamic president of Iran. During this meeting, our country's deputy foreign affairs minister, while praising the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe against the apartheid regime, referred to the serious steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran against imperialism, Zionism, and racism and reiterated the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the righteous struggle of the people of South Africa and Namibia against apartheid; and announced Iran's readiness for overall cooperation and coordination with the Frontline States.

Mr Mugabe, while expressing gratitude for Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's message and the Iranian delegation's visit to Zimbabwe, paid tribute to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its very positive and revolutionary role against the racist regime of South Africa and for its very healthy relations with Zimbabwe and asked for the expansion of these relations. Mr Robert Mugabe said: We have always supported the Islamic Revolution of Iran and its leadership and we have been in favor of strengthening relations between Iran and Zimbabwe.

Ministry Deputy Speaks of Increased Exports

GF120824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] The deputy minister of economic and trade affairs of the Industries Ministry has told correspondents that in the first 6 months of the current year [21 March to 22 September 1985] Iran has earned over $ 76 million in foreign exchange for nonoil exports. This is 50 percent higher than the corresponding period last year.

The deputy minister, while pointing out that industrialists are placing more stress on exports, said that recently the prime ministry has given $ 40 million to the Industries Ministry to provide support for exporting industries. The deputy minister said the Industries Ministry supports the government policy of encouraging exports by rewarding exporters who provide competitive prices in foreign markets and who obtain export agreements. The ministry also supports production of competitive goods and approves the importation of raw materials by the industries.

Commenting on the types of goods permitted to be imported, he said we will not allow the importation of goods the like of which are produced at home. However, importation of goods that are not produced at home may be approved according to need. Similarly, goods that are produced domestically but are in short supply may be allowed to be imported according to need and merit. Those goods that are not produced at home and for which there is little need are not allowed to be imported.

With the regard to foreign exchnage needs, the deputy minister said the Ministry of Industries needs $ 5.6 billion annually in foreign exchange to provide for 7,000 industrial units and for several other industrial projects. This is used for repair and expansion of machinery and for making full use of domestic industrial capacity.

The deputy minister noted that during the current year $ 2.5 billion has been allocated to various industries. He said this foreign exchange is given to industries according to merit. So far $ 1.5 billion from the current year's allocation has been released to various industries and it is estimated that by the end of the current month [21 December] more letters of credit will be opened for industrialists at the Central Bank, in addition to the system of (?cash) payments.

The deputy minister for economic and trade affairs at the Ministry of Industries, commenting on the importance of nonoil exports, said the exporting industrialists are allowed to import spare parts and a part of their raw materials with the foreign exchange that they may earn. They also have been allowed to set up assembly plants for export goods within a radius of 120 km around Tehran — the area in which the expansion of industries has been limited, if they are willing to do so.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,317

LD121517 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA — Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions and patrol units in Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts Wednesday, killed or wounded at least 35 Iraqi troops, destroyed several tanks and trucks and set fire to parts of Iraqi fortifications, according to a military communique published by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Thursday.

In its Communique Number 2317, the Command said that all Iraqi aerial operations throughout the fronts over the past 24 hours were thwarted by either Iran's jet fighters or anti-aircraft units.

The Joint Staff further said that Iran's Muslim combatants kept the upperhands in Sumar and Mehran regions in western fronts silencing the enemy long-range artillery [word indistinct] Wednesday Iranian combatants pounded an Iraqi motorized unit in the area overlooking Fakkeh as well as Iraqi infantry units in Chazzabah, Majnun, halting all enemy operations. The communique said that exchange of fire between the Islamic forces and Iraqi troops continued in the sourthern and northwestern fronts. Meanwhile, Iraqi artillery fire on the city of Abadan Wednesday caused some damages.

'Infiltration' Successful

LD121932 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec 12, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants Thursday infiltrated Iraqi positions in the south of the Khandaq road in the Hawr al-Huwayzah marshlands of the southern front, announced the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters. The combatants surrounded an Iraqi combat unit and killed all its members before returning safely to their own base, said the Headquarters.

The hit-and-run attack was in retaliation for Iraqi air raids on the town of Al-Huwayzah this week where over fifty people were killed or wounded. Khatem ol-Anbiya' is the joint operation [words indistinct] army and the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps.

The Headquarters also said that Iraqi troops riding in boats tried to infiltrate Iranian positions in the north of the lake earlier in the day but came under fire and fled.

The Iraqis left fifteen dead including their commander behind, it added.

Reporters Visit Raid Sites

LD121644 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov. Dec. 12, IRNA — Foreign correspondents Thursday visited civilian areas damaged by Iraqi air raids on Hoveyzeh 100 km west of Ahvaz.

The correspondents were from AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, REUTER, TANJUG, the Chinese news agency, American ABC and NBC television networks, *LE MONDE* and Japanese newspapers.

Fourteen people were martyred and 31 injured in two Iraqi air raids on Hoveyzeh this week. The town was raised to the ground in the initial Iraqi offensive on Iran in 1980. Iran's Muslim combatants recaptured the city two years later. It has been reconstructed since.

One town resident, Abdul Hassan Mula told the visitors that they would continue resisting Iraqi attacks. "If Saddam destroys this town one hundred times, we shall rebuild it again" he said.

Iran has called on the United Nations to send a delegation to inspect the bombed town.

Iraqi Ulema Welcome Montazeri as Future Leader

LD121444 Tehran IRNA in English 1313 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Qom, Tehran Prov. Dec. 12, IRNA — A group of Iraqi ulema welcomed the election of Grand Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri as the future leader of Islamic Republic. A statement published by the ulema congratulated the world Muslims especially the Iranian nation on the election.

The statement said that the election is in accordance with the real needs of the Islamic Revolution and a decisive blow on the face of global arrogance.

The Iraqi ulema also wished a long life for Imam Khomeyni and expressed hope that Ayatollah Montazeri would play a key role in guiding the Islamic world.

The statement has been signed by Mahmud al-Hashemi, Kazem al-Ha'eri, Hussein al-Sadr, Sheikh Mohammad Baqer al-Naseri and Sheikh Hussein al-Bashiri.

Iraq Reportedly To Buy Aircraft From U.S. Company

LD121527 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Text] Kuwait, Dec. 12, IRNA — The Iraqi regime intends to purchase 24 helicopters from U.S. McDonnell Douglas company, reported newspapers here Thursday. The newspapers also said the U.S. State and Defence Departments have received the approval of the U.S. Congress to sell 45 Bell-made helicopters to Iraq at the cost of 275 million dollars. Negotiations are being held through the Iraq's Embassy in Washington.

The U.S. Government has repeatedly claimed that it does not sell arms to either sides of the Iran-Iraq war.

IATA Asked for 'Decisive Measures' Against Iraq

LD131113 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] IRNA reports: An Iranian delegation led by the deputy roads and transport minister for aviation affairs and the head of State Civil Aviation has arrived in Montreal, Canada, in order to raise and pursue Iraq's illegal actions in seizing non-military aircrafts and threatenting security of the airlines.

The delegation has attended a meeting of the International Air Transport Association [IATA], explaining the stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this connection.

During the meeting, the deputy roads and transport minister, referring to the 3 April 1985 resolution at the IATA's emergency meeting on the need for observation of international conventions and the need to remove Iraq's threats against the security of the airlines, requested a decisive measure to force the Iraqi regime to respect and implement the IATA resolution.

This IRNA report indicates that the IATA members clearly announced that regulations and decisions about international airlines must be implemented unconditionally, and that Iraq is required to observe regulations and articles of IATA resolutions and to return Iran's hijacked planes immediately.

In the course of this session the deputy roads and transport minister met the head of the IATA Supreme Council [as heard] and thanked him for his efforts.

The deputy minister said: The Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of its overall policy of observing international rules and regulations, has so far refrained from taking unilateral measures to remove Iraq's threats. We expect the IATA Supreme Council to employ all means to stop Iraq's illegal actions.

Commentary Views Recent OPEC Session, Decisions

GF121446 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Dec 85

[Commentary by the Central News Research group: "The 76th OPEC Session"]

[Text] Last Monday [9 December] the 76th ordinary session of OPEC was concluded after 3 days of deliberations on the world oil market and its various problems.

At this session the OPEC members again failed to agree on methods of controlling production and on the ways to check falling prices. However, the OPEC chairman told the press after the session that the OPEC members were determined to play an effective role in the oil market. The chairman said that although many have been predicting the fall of OPEC, the organization remains strong 25 years after its founding.

At this session no special agreements were reached on price structures, although a reduced oil demand was presaged for the coming summer months. It was also realized that it would be hard for OPEC to escape the adverse effects of the reduced summer demand when this is coupled with reduced oil prices.

Apart from the usual discussions on production quotas — over which OPEC members are seldom in agreement anyway — a majority of ministers spoke on the need for increasing their own production quotas. The oil minister of the Zionist Iraqi regime in fact announced that his country will produce as much oil as it liked without regard for the views of other members.

This lack of agreement among the members on lowering the production ceiling may cause further difficulties for OPEC during the coming summer. On the whole the lack of agreement at the OPEC conference can also generate difficulties in the general oil market during the coming months. Agreement also was not reached on the appointment of a new OPEC secretary general. The situation is likely to remain undecided for some time.

However, one important feature of the 76th session was the move to form a committee to study the causes for the reduced OPEC role in the world oil market and to search for remedies for this malady.

On the third day of the conference this committee was formed with members from Kuwait, Indonesia, UAE, Iraq, and Venezuela. The Venezuelan oil minister will be chairman of the subcommittee. The committee is expected to submit its report by the end of February or early March 1986. Its recommendations will be aimed at restoring OPEC's role in the world oil market. It will report to the OPEC Foreign Ministers Council.

Before we note the most important achievements of the 76th OPEC conference, it is of note that OPEC is indeed faced with the task of regaining its effective role in the world oil market. The one major result gained by the conference is that the conference has now begun to consider long-term policies to regain its old role. This is in contrast with the short-term adjustments that OPEC has been making. This aspect of the conference is quite encouraging. About the reduced OPEC share in world oil

production, one can say that OPEC production has truly been reduced. It has been reduced from 31 million barrels per day in 1967-77, to some 16 million barrels per day at present. In other words, OPEC's share in world oil production has been reduced from 60 percent to a mere 30 percent during 1985.

World theoreticians and their like attached to OPEC have been trying to make OPEC balance the reduced production with increase in oil prices. They want to return to 1973 oil prices, or else to 1979 or 1980 prices.

However, as soon as the special subcommittee was formed to help restore OPEC's role in the world oil market, the colonial mass media began to suggest that the first step toward that goal was a reduction of oil prices. The mass media also forecast a price war on oil during the summer months.

On the reduced OPEC role in the world market, before we blame the matter on the high oil prices we must consider other factors that caused this situation. Those high prices were noticed only when previous non-oil producers like the United Kingdom and Norway began to produce their own oil. It was also caused by increased oil exports from communist countries, including the Soviet Union. The hoarding of oil by some also contributed to the factor. Moreover, the policies of the International Energy Commission as implemented by (?OECD) also contributed. The recession in the industrial countries and recession in the world financial market also affected the OPEC countries. All this caused a change in the price structure of OPEC oil. One should take all these facts into consideration when seeking causes for the reduced OPEC role in the world market and before blaming the high OPEC oil prices for its reduced role.

Present forecasts show that the current recession and setbacks will not last until the end of the present century. By that time the demand for oil is expected to increase. So, until the year 2000 the pressures on the oil market must be tolerated. The OPEC member should avoid further reduction in their prices. Meanwhile, the special OPEC committee should work to achieve the objectives set before it. If the regaining of OPEC's role in the world market means that every member be allowed to set its own production quota and charge its own price, little change can be expected in the fortunes of OPEC. As OPEC did not lose its old role in the world market because of the high prices, it cannot hope to regain that role by reducing its prices. OPEC now is thinking about long-term measures and strategies, which is a good sign. One should wait to hear from the special committee on the subject.

In the end, noting that the next OPEC session will meet in June 1986, any possible reduction in oil prices next summer should be considered by the members and remedies be found for that eventuality by maintaining unity among their ranks and by implementing OPEC programs and objectives.